

In the Specification:

On page 1, after the title insert the following:

RELATED APPLICATION

This is a U.S. National Phase Application under 35 USC 371 of International Application PCT/EP2004/012237, filed on October 29, 2004.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, before line 8, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, before line 32, insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, delete the paragraph beginning on line 32 through line 37 in its entirety and insert the following:

One aspect of the present invention is directed to a tire tread comprising a rubber composition. The composition comprises a diene elastomer, a reinforcing inorganic filler, a coupling agent and a plasticising agent. The diene elastomer comprises more than 30 phr of butyl rubber and the plasticising agent comprises an unsaturated (C₁₂-C₂₂) fatty acid triester of glycerol.

On page 1, delete the paragraph beginning on line 39 through line 40 in its entirety.

On page 2, delete the paragraph beginning on line 1 through line 2 in its entirety.

On page 2, amend the paragraph beginning on line 12 as follows:

Another ~~subject~~ aspect of the invention is a process for preparing a tire tread having improved grip on wet roads. ~~;- this~~ This process comprises ~~the following~~ steps_{[[;]]} incorporating in a diene elastomer, in a mixer_{[[;]]} , a reinforcing inorganic filler_{[[;]]} a coupling agent_{[[;]]} and a plasticising agent_{[[;]]} This is done by thermomechanically kneading the entire mixture, in one or more stages, until a maximum temperature of between 130°C and 200°C is reached_{[[;]]} . The ~~cooling the entire mixture is cooled~~ to a temperature of less than 100°C_{[[;]]} ~~then incorporating a~~ A cross-linking system_{[[;]]} is then incorporated. The process further comprises kneading the entire mixture until a maximum temperature of less than 120°C is reached_{[[;]]} and extruding or calendering the rubber composition thus obtained, in the form of a tire tread_{[[;]]} ~~and it is characterised in that the~~ The diene elastomer comprises more than 30 phr of butyl rubber_{[[;]]} and ~~in that~~ the plasticising agent comprises an unsaturated (C₁₂-C₂₂) fatty acid triester of glycerol.

On page 2 delete the paragraph between lines 33 and 34 in their entirety.